

TOP SECRET

19 March 1963

P. 631
**SUBJECT: Employment of Soviet Equipment Increments
in Cuba**

The items indicated by asterisks on the accompanying list of bloc military equipment are those which we believe have been retained for use solely by the Soviet forces in Cuba. None of these items has been seen in Cuban hands, even though the Castro regime has made a point to show the Cuban people a great many other items of military equipment which the USSR has sent to Cuba. Also, the items marked by asterisks have been seen in Cuba only in encampments which we believe to be Soviet.

The items not asterisked are used primarily by Cuban forces. Soviet troops, however, may have retained small numbers of these items for their own use. For example,

[REDACTED] have been identified at the principal Soviet encampments in Cuba. 25X1

The only Soviet military equipment in Cuba which we believe to be "in reserve" is that used to equip Soviet tactical units there. The remaining Soviet military equipment has been used to train and to equip the Cuban army and militia.

There are no reports of heavier pieces of military equipment, such as artillery or tanks, being shipped from Cuba, and it is unlikely that equipment of this nature could be introduced covertly into another country. It is extremely difficult, however, to determine that no small arms have ever been sent to subversives elsewhere in Latin America from Cuba, especially in view of the fact that the Cuban small arms arsenal is of mixed origin, including many US weapons. Nevertheless, there are no confirmed reports tracing arms found elsewhere in Latin America to Castro's Cuba.

Attachment: herewith

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